to band together as a team and win the championship. In the previous two years, the Bears had traveled to the Suffolk County tournament only to be denied the prestigious championship. This season, led by coach Keith Singer, the girls were finally successful in their quest for the title. Their journey ended the weekend of February 20 with the overwhelming victory over Pierson High School. After receiving the number one seed in the playoffs, the Bears defeated Pierson High School, ranked second in the tournament, by a score of 61–30.

The strong 15 and 4 record is a testament to the hard work and determination of the Bears. Coach Keith Singer's leadership kept these young women poised on winning the championship. On the basketball court, the Bears were blessed with a well-balanced offensive team. Senior Rebecca Fischer led the Bears offense by scoring 18 points, and adding 14 rebounds. Fellow senior, Sara Kiernan, further contributed to the bears success with 13 points. The team's success would not have occurred without their determination and teamwork.

The Bears' success is also attributed to their dominating defensive style. The team has frustrated numerous teams with their suffocating defensive play. Led by senior Sara Kiernan, who amassed five steals, the Bears put together a stringent zone defense. The success of their defense is most easily seen in their domination of rival Pierson. In the final, the Bears' defense devastated Pierson. In the first period, Pierson was held to a mere 7 points. Overall, Pierson was only able to score 30 points against the Bears, despite being ranked second in the County.

The work ethic and determined spirit of this high school basketball team are a true reflection of my Congressional District. The entire community is filled with pride for these young women, who have worked so hard and sacrificed so much to reach their goal. So I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and all my neighbors in saluting the Stony Brook Bears, the ''1999 Suffolk County Class D'' girls high school basketball champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 52, on House Congressional Resolution 24, Expressing Congressional Opposition to the Unilateral Declaration of a Palestinian State, I was unavailable to vote because I was returning from a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip to Russia. The objectives of this four-day trip included meetings with the Russian Duma and other governmental officials concerning the missile defense threat as outlined in the report of the Rumsfeld Commission. Our delegation was joined in Moscow by former Secretary Don Rumsfeld and two members of his commission, Mr. Jim Woolsey and Mr. William Schneider, Jr.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea.''

FEDERAL MONEY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues a recent Op-Ed written by Dr. Arthur H. Rubenstein about the benefits federal money has produced for medical research. Dr. Rubenstein is the Dean of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, one of New York City's and the country's premiere teaching hospitals.

MORE AID MEANS MORE RESPONSIBILITY—FEDERAL MONEY PUTS MEDICAL RESEARCH ON THE THRESHOLD OF A GOLDEN AGE

(By Arthur H. Rubenstein)

NEW YORK.—Congress has now approved billions of dollars in research money to complete the elements of what could be the Golden Age of Medical Research.

We now have scientific excellence, outstanding technology, public support and greatly increased funding aligned to make possible a quantum leap forward in our search for better treatments, prevention and hopefully cures of some of the most dreaded diseases on earth.

But as we celebrate this unique opportunity, scientists and physician researchers must understand that with it comes a new, and perhaps higher, level of responsibility. If we ignore this responsibility, we risk losing this newly won support.

A combination of forces has brought us to this unique opportunity.

The media continues to follow the rapid pace of scientific breakthroughs and gives medical news front page status.

The public, particularly patients and their families, clamor for life saving and life prolonging treatments.

In addition, many recent discoveries are now being applied in actual practice. Leading lawmakers in Congress took particular notice of these forces during the last congressional session. Realizing that a big boost in funding could capitalize on the intensifying scientific knowledge of the past decade, thoughtful lawmakers brought about a $2 billion increase in the NIH budget.

As a physician and a Dean of a major medical school, I am elated over this opportunity. During my lifetime, basic science has advanced and accelerated so rapidly that we are on the verge of unprecedented discoveries. Just 45 years after the discovery of the structure of DNA, we are on the road to examining how tens of thousands of genes function.

That will be the key to understanding how many diseases occur. And that is the shaft of light that can lead us to curing or controlling the disease.

We will look back on these years with the same awe as was felt for the wondrous age after Newton discovered the Laws of Motion or Einstein discovered the Laws of Relativity.

However, if I put my own scientific excitement to the side for a moment and focus on my role as the leader of an entity which depends heavily on research funding, I must also offer a cautious warning about this great rush forward.

All over the country, in clinical and research laboratories, the scramble is on to garner a share of this new funding. This competition is healthy and will lead to better science. My own school will compete as hard as the next.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH), though, faces a formidable challenge to allocate money to research laboratories. Clearly, the funds must be spent in a wise and responsible manner.

But which scientists working on what diseases will get an infusion of money to throw their research into high gear or get it off the ground? How much ''politics'' must be considered? What markers will be laid out to show if the money was wasted or well spent? I don't envy the NIH at all!

The Institute of Medicine recommends the public be given a strong say in this process and that a public advisory board be created. Those are excellent and appropriate ideas.

The funding decisions must not be solely made in meetings amongst administrators and scientists.

To maintain public support, the scientific community must make the public a greater part of the discussion of what could be literally life and death decisions for generations to come.

But we, as scientists and leaders of the academic community, must also be mindful that our individual and collective actions are appropriately facing a higher level of scrutiny than ever before. We must embrace this examination, respond appropriately, or else face great peril.

We have an obligation to find ways to share our work with the lay public, to do our best to make it intelligible to non scientists. We have an obligation to be cautious with our pronouncements of progress.

As exciting as incremental progress is to the scientist, its reality, that it is progress but not yet a cure, can be exceptionally cruel to the human being looking for solace. We have an obligation to shun fleeting fame when it is premature, and fortune when its potential jeopardizes the credibility of our work.

Science is tantalizingly close to so many discoveries! To me, it is simply breathtaking to even begin to comprehend that within five to ten years we may—I underscore ''may''—have the understanding to cure or prevent various infectious diseases, mental illnesses, birth defects, and would be killers like heart disease, cancer, AIDS, and diabetes.

If the medical and research communities are perceived as not using public funding wisely or let false optimism blind us to the often unpredictable nature of scientific exploration, we will have failed in a monumental and tragic manner.

Besides the discoveries lost or delayed, and the lives that would be affected, there could be a public backlash against those who failed to act responsibly.

The Golden Age of Medical Research then would be replaced by an era of suspicion and skepticism about science's ability to improve life.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES E. CADO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that James E. Cado of Lexington, MO, passed away on February 4, 1999.

Born November 27, 1936 in Lexington, MO, the son of Henry and Minnie Margaret